

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information distributing apparatus comprising:  
a reception unit for receiving information;  
an information storage unit for storing thereinto said  
5 received information;

a transmission unit for transmitting information stored  
in said information storage unit to a designated providing  
destination;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount  
10 in accordance with additional information owned by said  
transmitted information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto charge  
amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit.

2. An information distributing apparatus comprising:  
a reception unit for receiving information;  
an information storage unit for storing thereinto said  
15 received information;

a transmission unit for transmitting information stored  
20 in said information storage unit to a designated providing  
destination;

a reference information reception unit for receiving  
reference information transmitted from said providing  
destination;

25 a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount  
in accordance with additional information owned by said  
transmitted information and said received reference

information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing therein charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to such  
5 information related to the reference, which is produced at  
an arbitrary interval in the case that said providing destination  
refers to the additional information owned by the information  
transmitted to said designated providing destination, or  
irrespective of such a fact that said providing destination  
10 does not refer to said additional information.

3. An information storing apparatus comprising:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing therein said  
15 received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such  
information related to information which is requested to be  
referred among the information stored in said information storage  
unit; and

20 a reference control unit for providing information in  
response to said request, and also for producing a signal used  
to notify a reference of additional information owned by said  
information which is requested to be referred.

25 4. An information storing/distributing apparatus  
comprising:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing therein said received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such information related to information which is requested to be referred among the information stored in said information storage unit;

a reference control unit for providing information in response to said request, and also for producing a signal used to notify a reference of additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount in accordance with additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred and also said reference information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing therein charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to such information related to the reference, which is produced at an arbitrary interval in the case that said requesting destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated requesting destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said requesting destination does not refer to said additional information.

5. An information providing system comprising:  
an information storing/distributing apparatus including:  
a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing thereinto  
said received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such  
information related to information which is requested to be  
5 referred among the information stored in said information storage  
unit;

a reference control unit for providing information  
in response to said request, and also for producing a signal  
used to notify a reference of additional information owned  
10 by said information which is requested to be referred;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge  
amount in accordance with additional information owned by said  
information which is requested to be referred and also said  
reference information; and

15 a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto  
charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation  
unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to  
such information related to the reference, which is produced  
20 at an arbitrary interval in the case that said requesting  
destination refers to the additional information owned by the  
information transmitted to said designated requesting  
destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said requesting  
destination does not refer to said additional information;

25 an information producing apparatus for producing  
information which is provided via a network to said information  
storing/distributing apparatus; and

an information reproducing apparatus for arbitrarily selecting the information saved in said information storing/distributing apparatus via the network to reproduce and display the arbitrarily and selectively received  
5 information.

6. An information providing system comprising:  
an information distributing apparatus including:

a reception unit for receiving information;

10 an information storage unit for storing thereinto said received information;

a transmission unit for transmitting information stored in said information storage unit to a designated providing destination;

15 a reference information reception unit for receiving reference information transmitted from said providing destination;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount in accordance with additional information owned by said  
20 transmitted information and said received reference information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

25 wherein said reference information corresponds to such information related to the reference, which is produced at an arbitrary interval in the case that said providing

destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated providing destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said providing destination does not refer to said additional information;

5 an information storing apparatus including:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing therein  
said received information;

10 a reference record storage unit for recording such information related to information which is requested to be referred among the information stored in said information storage unit; and

15 a reference control unit for providing information in response to said request, and also for producing a signal used to notify a reference of additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred;

an information producing apparatus for producing information which is provided via a network to said information storing/distributing apparatus; and

20 an information reproducing apparatus for arbitrarily selecting the information saved in said information storing/distributing apparatus via the network to reproduce and display the arbitrarily and selectively received information.

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